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OIC-5963

Copy 8 of 8

6 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conference with DDCI
Concern Re Proposed Surfacing of A-12

1. On 5 November 1963 a meeting was held in the office of General Carter from 3:30 to 4:45. In attendance, in addition to the DDCI, were Mr. Lyman Kirkpatrick, Dr. Albert D. Wheelon, Colonel Jack C. Ledford, Mr. John Parangosky, Mr. Edwin Roth and the writer. The purpose of the meeting was to have a "skull session" on the desirability of and necessity for surfacing an OXCART vehicle. Very early during the session, General Carter made the observation that it would be impossible for the Department of Defense to say they developed the vehicle. He went on and mentioned that in view of the TFX situation, Mr. McNamara could not come out now and say that the Air Force or another element of the Department of Defense had this project in its hip pocket all the time. He observed that if McNamara tried to say that the Air Force attempted to develop the OXCART bird he couldn't get a job as office boy at Ford.

2. It was apparent at the outset that there was no prepared agenda for this meeting and Jack Ledford picked up the ball and made a few key points on the blackboard, such as the vehicle must be surfaced, there are a lot of problems involved, etc. The writer informed the group of the latest publicity focused upon Project OXCART, and it was apparent that the group agreed that the surfacing must occur. The writer mentioned the observation of Hajeab Halaby to the effect that if any surfacing is to occur, it should not happen in proximity to the 15 January date since a surfacing at that late date would be worse than no surfacing since Boeing and North American would undoubtedly then object that they were provided OXCART technology too late to permit them to incorporate such information into their proposals. Mr. Kirkpatrick observed that the surfacing should occur by 1 December 1963 at the latest.

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This document contains information
referring to Project OXCART

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3. [] early in the session, endeavored to present to General Carter for his review a copy of the earlier surfacing paper prepared by OSA. Dr. Wheelon observed that the purpose of the session was merely to discuss the matter and in effect discouraged [] giving the earlier paper to General Carter. Dr. Wheelon observed that in his opinion the A-12 would be shot down by a SA-2 at the present time. Dr. Wheelon also observed that the Soviets are aware of the OXCART [] from [] that he learned this from [] that

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4. Bud Wheelon also observed in effect that everyone knows about OXCART and mentioned that he was aware of the Project before he was briefed. (I sent a note to Dr. Wheelon on 6 November 1963 requesting an opportunity to discuss this awareness on his part before he was cleared.)

5. After Dr. Wheelon observed that undoubtedly the OXCART vehicle could be "gotten" by a SA-2, Colonel Ledford observed that he would be perfectly satisfied to fly the bird over the Soviet Union at the present time. Lyman Kirkpatrick observed that at this point unfortunately if Colonel Ledford didn't return we couldn't point out to him that he was wrong. [] the wife team has a design

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6. Mr. Kirkpatrick presented a paper for review by the group and it passed around from hand to hand. He set forth therein any reasons why the surfacing should occur. He supplemented his written observation by stating that in his opinion it is in the best interest of the Agency to take the initiative to surface to obtain much due credit. Later in the discussions, however, he stated that he did not mean that by getting credit for CIA we would publish in the Washington Daily News the fact that "CIA DEVELOPS MACH 3 AIRCRAFT FOR AIR FORCE." He suggested that he meant that key individuals in government and industry appropriately security cleared would be informed of CIA participation.

7. Toward the end of the conference when Dr. Whelon was just about to depart for a special group meeting, he stated that he would not concur in the surfacing of OXCART if it meant that we would be denied the option to use the vehicle operationally. Both General Carter and Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that there would be no less likelihood that we could use the vehicle under such circumstances if it was surfaced or if the environment was, as at the present. Everyone agreed that regardless of the apparent vulnerability of the OXCART vehicle as emphasized by Dr. Whelon that in a real emergency (as in the Cuban situation) undoubtedly the President would direct the utilization of all assets if over-head reconnaissance was essential.

8. Some discussion ensued as to what would be surfaced and Mr. Parangosky mentioned surfacing [redacted]. [redacted] suggested the approach should be surfacing the LRI. Further general discussions ensued and it was concluded just as Dr. Whelon was leaving the office that it was apparent that there should be another discussion on this subject. Another meeting was scheduled for Friday, 8 November 1963. Colonel Ledford at this point suggested the proposal to surface be prepared in the form of charts. General Carter observed that he did not care how it was prepared. General Carter also observed that we should take the initiative to prepare an approach to surfacing and push forward. (Earlier in the discussion Mr. Kirkpatrick observed that before any action could be taken in the

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direction of surfacing, it would be essential that several high level points be contacted for concurrence. He mentioned a meeting with Dean Rusk, DCI, George Bundy, etc. He also mentioned that Dr. Killian should be invited down and the Clifford Board should be queried since they have expressed interest in this area in the past.)



Chief, Security Staff
OSA

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OSA/SS [redacted] /apr

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